

REMARKS

Claims 2-8 are now present in this application.

The specification and claim 2 have been amended, and claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner has indicated that the certified copy of the priority document has not been received. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the Declaration filed on December 9, 2003, which indicates that priority is not being claimed.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Yazi, U.S. Patent 5,350,949 in view of Barber et al., U.S. Patent 3,428,864. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 5-8 to be allowable, and claims 2-4 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that claim 1 has been cancelled and that claim 2 has been rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.


Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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